

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06083 101037Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 IO-13 INR-10 L-03 MCT-01
SSO-00 INRE-00 NEA-11 /052 W
-----058773 101042Z /20
O 101047Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3028

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6083

STADIS//////////

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS EAIR
SUBJ: CIVAIR: FAA CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY SERVICE MEETING
TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT THREAT

REFS: (A) STATE 117423, (B) STATE 117424, (C) 77 TEL AVIV 10898

1. EMBASSY HAS NOT RPT NOT INFORMED GOI OF PROPOSED MEETING BUT BELIEVES THAT WHEN IT DOES ISRAELIS WILL NATURALLY WONDER WHY THEY ARE NOT BEING INVITED. DESPITE OUR BEST ASSURANCE THAT THE REASONS ARE TECHNICAL, THEY PROBABLY WILL ASSUME THAT IT IS FOR POLITICAL REASONS. GOI IS ALREADY SENSITIVE OVER BEING LEFT OUT OF MEETINGS IN ANTI-HIJACKING AREA AS INDICATED BY ITS REACTION WHEN IT WAS NOT INVITED TO ANTI-HIJACKING CONTACT GROUP (REFTEL C).

2. FRANKLY, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND REASONING BEHIND EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL IF IT IS NOT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. ON THE ONE HAND, ARGUMENT IS ADVANCED THAT ISRAEL IS ONE OF "MOST VITALLY AFFECTED STATES IN TERMS OF US FLAG AIR CARRIER OPERATIONS" IN RESPECT TO INCREASED THREAT OF TERRORIST ATTACKS IN MEDITERRANEAN AREA (PARA 4, REF A). REF B ASSERTS THAT BECAUSE "BEN CONFIDENTIAL

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GURION PROCEDURES...BASICALLY MEET OUR STANDARDS... THERE IS NO TECHNICAL REASON FOR ISRAEL'S INCLUSION... AND WE WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS FOR PURPOSES OF SMOOTH OPERATION OF CONFERENCE."

3. WHAT GOES ON HERE? WHERE IS THE LOGIC IN EXPENDING VAST AMOUNTS OF USG RESOURCES AND POLITICAL CAPITAL

IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL FORA DEFENDING ISRAEL'S
RIGHT OF FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY AND THEN BACK AWAY FROM SUPPORTING GOI PRESENCE
AT AN AVIATION SECURITY MEETING, A SUBJECT ON WHICH
EVERYONE AGREES ISRAELIS ARE AMONG THE WORLD'S LEADING
EXPERTS? WE FIND THE US POSITION NEITHER CONSISTENT
IN POLICY TERMS NOR LOGICAL IN POLITICAL TERMS AND URGE
THE DEPARTMENT TO RECONSIDER THE MATTER. MEANWHILE, WE
WILL NOT DISCUSS THIS WITH THE GOI. LEWIS

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